

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 2, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232
United States Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Robert Brady
Chairman
House Administration Committee
1313 Longworth
House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Chairman Brady:

We are writing today to ask that you re-examine the promotional message on behalf of organic and free-range foods in the cafeterias on the Capitol grounds.

In the early 20th century, about 40 percent of Americans were engaged in agricultural production. Today that number is down to 1.75 percent. Our nation's farmers and ranchers provide Americans with the safest, most affordable and most abundant food supply in the history of the world. Our bounty of sustainable and nutritious food is so great that we also feed millions of other countless individuals around the world.

Traditional farming, organic growing, locally-produced food, and other methods have all earned their rightful place in our food production system by catering to consumers in the market place. Farmers and ranchers, no matter their particular production method, endure unpredictable weather, regulatory burdens, in addition to animal and plant diseases and pest threats. They continue to do this in order to participate in a highly competitive global market, and they do not need Congress to show favoritism of one type of agriculture over another.

As Members of Congress, we need to help our American farmers and ranchers by making sure they have all available tools necessary for success. Farmers and ranchers visit the Capitol grounds in large numbers, and observe what we say and do in and around the Capitol. If we are going to educate individuals and promote the importance of agriculture in our Nation's Capitol and throughout the United States, we need to do so in a way that reflects agriculture as a whole. The promotion of

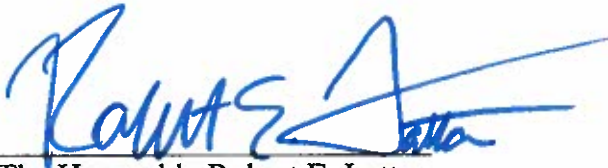
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organic and free range products in our cafeterias sends a message that Congress is in the business of picking winners and losers in agricultural production.

In closing, we ask again for your reconsideration of your agriculture platform in the cafeterias and make sure you keep the best interests of all farmers and ranchers in mind.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress



The Honorable Frank Lucas
Member of Congress



The Honorable Steve King
Member of Congress



The Honorable Michael Conaway
Member of Congress



The Honorable Glenn Thompson
Member of Congress



The Honorable Randy Neugebauer
Member of Congress



The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Dan Lungren, Ranking Member, House Administration Committee

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